

REMARKS

Claims 2-4 and 6 are now present in this application.

Claims 1 and 5 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 4 and 6 have been amended. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by the Admitted Prior Art. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Without conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but simply to expedite prosecution, it is noted that claim 1 has been cancelled. Accordingly, this rejection should now be overcome. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC 102(b) rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over the Admitted Prior Art, in view of U.S. Patent 6,154,664 to Chorey et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that the Examiner considers claims 5 and 6 to contain allowable subject matter. Because the limitations of claim 5 have now been incorporated into claim 4, this 35 USC 103 rejection should also be overcome. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Finally, Applicants gratefully acknowledge that claims 2 and 3 are considered to be allowable. As such, all claims in the instant application should now be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

In the event the Examiner does not consider this application to be in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered for the purposes of Appeal. This Amendment should overcome the current rejections and therefore simplify the issues for Appeal. Nonetheless, it should be unnecessary to proceed to Appeal because the instant application should now be in condition for allowance.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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